

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Paragraph number notations refer to Applicant's published patent application US 2004/0158230 A1.

Please replace paragraph [0047] with the following amended paragraph:

[0047] FIG. 3 shows a cannula (1) made of a material (2) whose hardness changes during application. This can be, for example, a water-absorbing material whose hardness decreases due to an absorption process. Suitable materials are, for example, polymers comprising polar functional groups which enable water molecules to be absorbed, and other suitable materials are envisioned as well. In the instance of polymers comprising polar functional groups, the absorption process reduces the interactions between the polymer chains and leads to a reduction in the hardness of the material. The water molecules function to a certain extent as "plasticizers." Water may be absorbed both from the inner side of the cannula and the outer side of the cannula.

Please replace paragraph [0049] with the following amended paragraph:

[0049] FIG. 4 shows a cannula (3) made of an outer material (1) of variable hardness and an inner material (2) having a lower initial hardness, i.e., prior to application, the outer material (1) exhibits a greater hardness than the inner material (2). The outer material (1) can for example be produced by surface modification, coating or coextrusion.

Please replace paragraph [0054] with the following amended paragraph:

[0054] FIGS. 7a and 7b show a flexible cannula (4) comprising two separate, equally flexible cannulae (1), (2), wherein cannula (1) consists of a material having a greater hardness. Even in its initial state, however, cannula (1) exhibits a pliability which enables the cannula (4) to be bent with a radius of curvature of preferably less than 5 cm and to penetrate the skin, a septum or other materials without problems. The pliancy is preferably sufficiently great that a radius of curvature of 0.5 cm or less can be achieved. Particularly preferably, in one embodiment, the combination of the two cannulae (1) and (2) can be bent up to a radius of curvature of 0.1 cm or less. In one embodiment, cannula (1) is preferably a metallic needle, for example a hollow needle made of steel, with an outer diameter preferably in the range of 0.1 mm to 0.3 mm. Due to the

material having a lower initial hardness, cannula (2) offers no resistance or only slight resistance to a bending movement, and adjusts to the shape of the flexible cannula (1). Cannula (1) can also be replaced by a needle of solid material.